UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1755
20 October 1994

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Advance team of United Nations Mission in Haiti is fully operational, Secretary-General reports; coordinates with multinational force in preparation for transition.

+ General Assembly marks twenty-fifth anniversary of UNFPA; grants observer status to International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; concludes International Conference on Families.

+ IAEA Director-General says recent agreement between United States and Democratic People's Republic of Korea appears to foresee vital and prolonged role for Agency; stresses importance of early compliance with Safeguards Agreement.

+ UNPROFOR presence is essential to peace process in Croatia, says Special Representative Akashi; urges parties to reflect on consequences of premature withdrawal.

+ Special Representative Akashi to discuss violations of Mount Igman demilitarized zone and blockage of UNPROFOR fuel convoys with Bosnian Government and Bosnian Serb leaders.

+ Canada tells Economic and Financial Committee governments must match UNCED commitments with actions at national and community levels.

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The advance team of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) has been successfully deployed and is now fully operational, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a report to the Security Council dated 18 October, he noted that its tasks included: coordinating with the multinational force in preparation for the full deployment of UNMIH; monitoring the operations of the force; and making good offices available as required.

The team had observed that the multinational force had made progress towards achieving objectives set out in Security Council resolution 940 (1994), while using minimum force, the Secretary-General continued. The great

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majority of the Haitian population welcomed the force, but might be developing unrealistically high expectations of what it would do.

In preparation for the transition from the multinational force to UNMIH, the advance team's military component had established a joint working group with the force, he said. The transition could only take place when a secure and stable environment had been established, and when UNMIH's strength and structure were adequate for it to assume its functions. The joint working group was in the process of identifying the criteria for a secure and stable environment. The advance team's tasks would expire when the multinational force had completed its mission and when UNMIH had assumed the full range of its functions.

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The General Assembly today commemorated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). In a resolution adopted without a vote, it noted with satisfaction the Fund's positive contribution in promoting understanding and awareness of population and development issues. Addressing the Assembly, Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali said the UNFPA must continue to encourage societies to develop population policies, while respecting their traditions and diversity. It must also be prepared for controversy. He stressed that the international community must follow through on the commitments made at the Cairo Conference on Population and Development.

The Assembly yesterday granted observer status to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in consideration of its role in international humanitarian relations. In a resolution adopted without a vote, the Assembly recalled that the Federation's member societies were recognized by their governments as auxiliaries to the public authorities in the humanitarian field. Introducing the resolution, Australia cited the Federation's uniqueness and shared humanitarian task with the United Nations. The United States said it would have abstained had there been a vote; observer status should be granted in accordance with the Charter and past practice, which limited it to States and intergovernmental organizations.

Also yesterday, the Assembly concluded its International Conference on Families. Pakistan urged Member States, when finalizing proposals for the follow-up to the International Year of the Family, to make provision for the return and rehabilitation of families victimized during armed conflicts and civil strife. Mongolia said traditional definitions of the family were being enriched with the emergence of new types, such as cohabitation, same-gender relationships and single-parent families.

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The Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) today said that the agreement reached by the United States and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in Geneva this week appeared to foresee a "vital, prolonged and extensive" role for the Agency. However, he stressed that it would have to be studied in detail when finalized.

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The agreement also foresaw a freezing of the present nuclear programme of the People's Republic and a subsequent dismantling of installations, calling for new IAEA verification responsibilites beyond those required by the Safeguards Agreement, Mr. Bilx continued. The disagreement between the People's Republic and the IAEA had been caused by the country's refusal to cooperate in the verification of its declared nuclear inventory. Under the Geneva agreement, the country would commit itself to accepting such verification once a significant portion of the light water reactor project agreed with the United States had been completed.

Mr. Blix welcomed that commitment, but warned that there could be a further significant delay before full compliance with the Safeguards Agreement could be attained. It was in the interest of all concerned that such a delay be avoided and that the People's Republic accept early verification of its nuclear inventory as required by the Safeguards Agreement.

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The Special Representative for the former Yugoslavia, Yasushi Akashi, today said that the presence of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Croatia was essential to the peace process there. He noted that the Zagreb Agreement of 29 March had silenced the guns and brought genuine relief to people on both sides of the conflict for the first time since the war had begun. The Security Council had recently renewed UNPROFOR's mandate to provide a secure environment in which a political settlement could be reached, while the international community's diplomatic efforts had intensified.

However, Mr. Akashi continued, UNPROFOR could only play its essential role in Croatia if it were welcome. He urged the parties to the conflict and the Croatian people to reflect on the consequences of a premature withdrawal of a peace-keeping force which had the solid endorsement of the international community.

Mr. Akashi recalled that Security Council resolution 947 (1994) requested the Secretary-General to report by 20 January 1995 on progress towards the reopening of road and rail communications between the United Nations Protected Areas (UNPAs) and the rest of Croatia; the establishment of basic utilities; and the return of displaced persons in safety and dignity. He stressed that UNPROFOR would do its utmost to ensure that all the provisions of that resolution were implemented.

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Special Representative Akashi will travel to Sarajevo tomorrow, and then on to Pale, for two days of talks with Bosnian Government and Bosnian Serb leaders, according to a United Nations spokesman. He will be joined by the Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lieutenant-General Michael Rose. On the agenda will be the removal of some 500 Bosnian Government troops from the Mount Igman demilitarized zone; the blocking of UNPROFOR fuel convoys by Bosnian Serbs; and a shooting incident in Gorazde earlier this week.

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The Bosnian Serbs have been demanding a portion of UNPROFOR's fuel supplies in exchange for safe passage for the convoys, but the Force has catergorically refused to meet those demands, according to the spokesman. However, he warned that fuel shortages could threaten its patrolling ability.

Meanwhile, good weather and adequate security conditions have enabled the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to average 15 flights a day into Sarajevo in the last week. Meanwhile, the UNHCR has transported 300 metric tons of food into the city by road.

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Governments must match their commitments to follow up the decisions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) with actions at the national and community levels, Canada's representative told the Second Committee (Economic and Financial) today. As the Committee continued its consideration of the question of environment and sustainable development, he said Canada had made progress because it had set clear goals, standards and measures.

Regarding the functions of the Commission on Sustainable Development, New Zealand stressed the importance of streamlining national reporting requirements. In view of the Commission's function as a clearing house, a coordinated approach to issues of environment and development at international and national levels was imperative.

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UNITED NATIONS

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21 October 1994

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council extends UNOMIL mandate until 13 January 1995; calls on Liberian factions to stop fighting immediately and to agree on timetable for disarmament and demobilization.

+ Security Council deplores continued threat by extremist elements to national reconciliation in Burundi; welcomes swearing in of President and formation of new coalition Government.

+ Conditions have been established for free and fair elections in Mozambique on 27 and 28 October, Security Council says; parties should abide by results and strive for reconciliation and reconstruction.

+ General Assembly elects Botswana, Indonesia, Honduras, Germany and Italy to two-year terms on Security Council as of 1 January.

+ General Assembly encourages cooperation between United Nations and OAS, SELA; elects new members to Committee for Programme and Coordination.

+ Secretary-General embarks on two-week tour taking in United Kingdom, France, Romania, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia and Moldova.

+ Election to fill vacant seat in International Court of Justice to be held by Security Council and General Assembly on 26 January.

+ Secretary-General expresses concern at escalation of tension on border between Israel and Lebanon, citing Israeli shelling of Lebanese village; calls for restraint on all sides.

+ Israel says it will not allow Tel Aviv bus bombing to weaken its commitment to Middle East peace process; calls on parties to strongly condemn terrorist attack.

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+ International Tribunal for former Yugoslavia, in first annual report, says Prosecutor may start issuing indictments within months; many problems to be overcome before trials begin.

+ Russian Federation tells Committee on Disarmament and International Security it will de-emphasize role of nuclear weapons for security and move steadily to eliminate them.

+ Secretary-General extends term of representative in Cambodia for six months at request of Government.

+ Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information to open DPI Inter-Agency Information Fair on United Nations Day, 24 October.

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The Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) until 13 January 1995. It welcomed the Secretary-General's intention to dispatch a high-level mission to consult with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) on how the international community could best continue to assist the peace process in Liberia. The Council recognized that circumstances there warranted his decision to reduce UNOMIL's strength, and said that any decision to return it to the authorized level would depend on a real improvement in the situation on the ground, particularly the security situation.

In unanimously adopting resolution 950 (1994), the Council called on all factions in Liberia to cease hostilities immediately, and to agree to a timetable for disengagement of forces, disarmament and demobilization. It further called on the Liberian National Transitional Government (LNTG) and all Liberians to seek political accomodation and national reconciliation and to work with the Chairman of ECOWAS and the Secretary-General's Special Representative to achieve a durable settlement. The Council again called on all States to strictly abide by the complete embargo on all deliveries of weapons and military equipment to Liberia.

The Council condemned the widespread killings of civilians and other violations of international humanitarian law by the factions in Liberia. It demanded that they strictly respect the status of personnel of the ECOWAS Observer Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) and UNOMIL, and of other international organizations and relief agencies working there. The Council asked the Secretary-General to report to it well in advance of 13 January, with recommendations as to the future role of UNOMIL in light of developments in the peace process and on the ground and the recommendations of the high-level mission.

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The Security Council today deplored the fact that extremist elements continued to threaten national reconciliation in Burundi, including through the operation of a clandestine radio station inciting ethnic hatred and

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violence. In a statement by its President, Sir David Hannay (United Kingdom), the Council welcomed the election and swearing in of the country's President, the confirmation of the Prime Minister and the formation of the new coalition Government as important steps in the stabilization of the situation there. It called on all parties in Burundi to cooperate in the work of re-establishing democracy and stability.

The Council reaffirmed the importance of bringing to justice those responsible for the coup last October, and subsequent inter-ethnic massacres and other violations of international humanitarian law. It encouraged the Secretary-General to pursue his suggestion that United Nations assistance be provided to the Government in strengthening its judicial system.

The Council expressed deep concern at the plight of refugees and displaced persons in Burundi, and welcomed the Secretary-General's sending of a Special Envoy to study the crisis from a regional perspective. It also encouraged the Secretary-General to pursue consultations as to how the United Nations could assist the convening of an international conference to examine the problems of the sub-region. The Council also welcomed his intention to strengthen the office of his Special Representative.

The Council called on the international community to continue to give priority to the restoration of stability and the promotion of national reconciliation in Burundi. It also encouraged the Organization of African Unity (OAU), United Nations agencies and Member States to continue their involvement there, and to intensify political contacts and visits.

* * *

The necessary conditions have now been established for the holding of free and fair elections in Mozambique on 27 and 28 October under effective national and international monitoring, according to the Security Council. In a Presidential statement this afternoon, it commended the Government, the Mozambique National Resistence Movement (RENAMO) and the Mozambican people for what had been achieved. By providing the people with an opportunity to exercise their right to vote, the elections held out the prospect of peace, stability and democracy.

The Council appealed to all concerned to ensure that the election campaign and voting were conducted in a calm and responsible manner; that the elections were held freely and fairly; that those in authority act with complete impartiality to avoid any allegation of fraud; and that the elections and their aftermath were characterized by the absence of violence or threats. It reiterated its intention to endorse the results of the elections should the United Nations declare them free and fair, and reminded the parties of their obligation to fully abide by the results.

The Council trusted that the parties would be guided after the elections by the spirit of reconciliation and the principles of democracy in working together to reconstruct Mozambique, thus enabling the international community to continue to support the country.

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The General Assembly yesterday elected Botswana, Indonesia, Honduras, Germany and Italy to two-year terms on the Security Council, filling non-permanent seats to be vacated on 31 December by Djibouti, Pakistan, Brazil, New Zealand and Spain. Representatives of the Gambia, on behalf of the African States, Samoa, on behalf of the Asian States, Paraguay, on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States, and Canada, on behalf of the Western European and Other States, took the floor to endorse the candidates from their respective regional groups.

The Assembly also accepted the formal credentials of representatives of 118 Member States by adopting, without a vote, the first report of its Credentials Committee. Speaking in explanation of position, the representatives of Libya and Iran stated that their approval of the report of the Committee did not imply endorsement of the credentials of Israel.

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The General Assembly today requested the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS), or their representatives, to resume consultations with a view to signing an agreement on cooperation next year. In a resolution adopted without a vote, it expressed satisfaction at existing cooperation between the two organizations, particularly regarding the International Civilian Mission to Haiti (MICIVIH).

In another resolution adopted without a vote, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General and the Latin American Economic System (SELA) to assess the implementation of the agreement between that organization and the United Nations on expanding cooperation in areas of common concern. The Assembly also elected seven new members to the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC), based on nominations of the Economic and Social Council. Elected to three-year terms, beginning on 1 January 1995, were: Benin and Ghana (African States); Russian Federation (Eastern European States); the Bahamas and Mexico (Latin American and Caribbean States); and France and the United States (Western European and Other States).

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today embarked on a two-week tour which will take him to the United Kingdom, France, Romania, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia and Moldova.

The Secretary-General's first stop will be London, where he will confer with the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary. He will also meet Prince Charles, and address the Foreign and Commonwealth Writers Association. In Paris, he will meet with the President, the Prime Minister and other senior officials. In Romania, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Armenia and Moldova, the Secretary-General will meet with Heads of State and senior government officials, and address the parliaments of most of those countries.

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During his visits, the Secretary-General will seek to strengthen relations between the United Nations and those Member States, and to promote the peaceful resolution of disputes. He will also meet with United Nations officials in Geneva, before returning to Headquarters on 8 November.

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The Security Council today decided to hold the election to fill the vacant seat in the International Court of Justice on 26 January 1995 at simultaneous meetings of the Council and the General Assembly. The Council took that decision by adopting resolution 951 (1994) without a vote, noting with regret the 28 September death of Judge Nikolai Konstantinovitch Tarassov of the Russian Federation.

Under the Statute of the Council, the General Assembly and the Security Council proceed independently of one another to elect the members of the Court. The candidate who obtains an absolute majority in the Assembly and in the Council is elected.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today expressed deep concern at the escalation of tension along the Israeli-Lebanese border. He cited a report from the Force Commander of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), Major-General Trond Furuhovde, that Israel had fired anti-personnel shells at the Lebanese village of Nabatiyeh al Fawqa, killing several civilians.

The Secretary-General noted that the Force Commander had strongly protested that incident to the Israeli Defence Force, while the Secretariat had conveyed a protest to the Permanent Mission of Israel. He condemned all violence against civilians, and called for restraint on all sides.

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Israel has stressed that it will not allow the terrorist bombing of a bus in Tel Aviv on Wednesday to weaken its commitment to the Middle East peace process. In a letter to the General Assembly and the Security Council dated 19 October, it said the Palestinian terrorist organization Hamas had claimed responsibility for the attack, which killed 22 people and injured 48. Hamas had also threatened to carry out more terrorist acts of that kind. In the past two weeks, the letter continued, it had been responsible for an attack in Jerusalem in which two people had been killed, and for the abduction and murder of an Israeli soldier.

The Tel Aviv bus bombing occured following the historic initialling of a peace agreement between Israel and Jordan, and at a time when serious efforts were being made to advance negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), the letter noted. Hamas had repeatedly declared its

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commitment to opposing the peace process by violent means, and to carrying out acts of terrorism against Israel and Israelis.

Israel called on the parties in the Middle East which supported the peace process, as well as the rest of the international community, to strongly condemn Wednesday's attack, and to join in confronting the terrorist threat.

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The President of the International Tribunal on war crimes in the former Yugoslavia has expressed the hope that the Prosecutor may start issuing indictments for review by judges within the next few months. However, in the first annual report of the Tribunal, he stressed that many problems would have to be overcome before trials began. That report was transmitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly and the Security Council in a note released today.

The report set out the many problems confronting the International Tribunal: a formal budget had yet to be approved, the Office of the Prosecutor had not been fully staffed or equipped, and the courtroom had not been finished. It pointed out that the Nürnberg International Military Tribunal had become fully operational less than eight months after its creation. In order to accomplish its mission, the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia would need the continued cooperation of States and the support of the Assembly and Council.

Nevertheless, the report continued, the establishment of the Tribunal was a momentous advance for the international community. The United Nations had accumulated an impressive body of international standards for the conduct of States and individuals, and now had an institution to transform them from abstract tenets into inescapable commands. All the individuals found guilty of rape, torture and massacre would be severely punished for their unacceptable disregard of the humanity of other human beings. With effective and dispassionate work, the Tribunal could open a new path to the realization of international justice and world peace.

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The Russian Federation yesterday told the First Committee (Disarmament and International Security) that it intended to de-emphasize the role of nuclear weapons for security and move steadily towards their complete elimination. The Russian representative said the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) must be viewed realistically. Much had already been done to implement the Treaty and much more would be done if the stability provided by it were maintained and strengthened.

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Iraq, in "rejecting the politics of force and double standards", expressed concern regarding the nuclear capabilities of Israel, which had not acceded to the NPT. Under such circumstances, it would be illogical to expect the countries of the region to accept an indefinite extension of the NPT.

Several speakers expressed disappointment at the failure of the Disarmament Commission to reach a consensus on the role of science and technology in the context of international security. The Philippines said one way for developing countries to make economic progress was to ensure continuing access to new technologies for industrialization and sustained development. The matter became more urgent in a world in which technology changed at a rapid pace and government policies could impede innovation, access and commercialization.

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The Secretary-General has decided to extend the term of his representative in Cambodia, Benny Widyono, for another six months. In a letter to the President of the Security Council dated 10 October, he said he was taking that action in response to a request by the Cambodian Government. The Secretary-General also extended the term of the three military advisers assisting Mr. Widyono in carrying out his mandate in accordance with the spirit and principles of the Paris Agreements.

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The annual Inter-Agency Information Fair organized by the Department of Public Information (DPI) will begin on United Nations Day, 24 October. It will be opened by the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information, Samir Sanbar, in the General Assembly Public Lobby. The Secretary-General's United Nations Day message will be delivered on that occasion.

The six-day Fair aims to acquaint the public with the scope of activities undertaken by the United Nations system. The 32 programmes, agencies and offices participating will provide information on their work and have representatives on hand to meet with visitors.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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24 October 1994

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- As United Nations celebrates its forty-ninth anniversary, Secretary-General calls for active support for Organization from people everywhere.

- Secretary-General says Security Council should extend UNAVEM II mandate for one month, citing expectation of Angola peace agreement by end of October.

- United Nations reiterates concern at deterioration of security conditions in Rwandese refugee camps; Department of Humanitarian Affairs to chair task force to examine general situation.

- Secretary-General condemns killing of Sri Lankan presidential candidate and 56 others in Colombo bombing.

- Seven-member Security Council mission leaves New York for Somalia.

- Informal negotiations on draft programme of action for 1995 World Social Summit begin at Headquarters.

- UNPROFOR reports continuing access problems for fuel convoys in Bosnia and Herzegovina, despite commitments made by Bosnian Serbs over weekend.

- Special Political and Decolonization Committee recommends General Assembly condemn militant actions of authorities in Serb-controlled parts of Croatia.

- Yonsei University Central Library in Republic of Korea becomes United Nations depository library.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today said that the United Nations needed the active commitment of people everywhere so that it could continue to play its indispensable role for peace, security and development. In a message for United Nations Day -- the Organization's forty-ninth anniversary -- he said promoting knowledge about the Organization was more important than ever.

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The Secretary-General was in London today, on the first stop of a two-week tour of seven States. He marked the Day by receiving a delegation from the United Nations Association of the United Kingdom. He also had lunch with the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Commons, and later met with Prince Charles.

The anniversary was celebrated at Headquarters with the annual United Nations Day concert in the General Assembly Hall. This morning, Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information Samir Sanbar opened the Inter-Agency Information Fair organized by the Department of Public Information (DPI).

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The Secretary-General has recommended that the mandate of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) be extended to 30 November, in the expectation that the Angolan parties will conclude an agreement by 31 October. In a report to the Security Council dated 20 October, he urged the Government of Angola and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) to make every effort to conclude the Lusaka peace talks by that date. In the meantime, they should exercise restraint and desist from all military operations which could jeopardize the progress achieved so far.

The consolidation of peace in Angola would require urgent international action to ensure that a cease-fire was rapidly established and effectively observed, the Secretary-General continued. He suggested that the Council consider restoring UNAVEM II to its previous strength to enable it to consolidate implementation of the peace agreement at the most critical stage. Angola would continue to need humanitarian assistance, but the focus should shift from emergency relief to support of the peace agreement, as well as rehabilitation, reconstruction and development. Both parties, in particular UNITA, must scrupulously respect the neutrality of humanitarian personnel.

Special Representative Alioune Blondin Beye had meetings over the weekend with Angolan President José Eduardo dos Santos and UNITA President Jonas Savimbi to discuss speeding up the peace process, a United Nations spokesman announced today. It was hoped that an agreement could be initialled some time this week. Meanwhile, the Lusaka talks have been adjourned until Wednesday while UNITA's Political Commission meets in Huambo.

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A United Nations spokesman today expressed concern regarding the deterioration of security conditions in Rwandese refugee camps. Special Representative Shahryar Khan was scheduled to meet today with the Prime Minister of Rwanda to discusss the matter. Meanwhile, the Secretary-General has asked the Department of Humanitarian Affairs to chair a task force comprising various elements of the United Nations system to look into the situation in the camps. The task force will also consider the need for an additional consolidated appeal for humanitarian assistance for Rwanda, and ways and means to support human rights monitors there.

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On Friday, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said the threatening presence and activities of former Rwandese army, militia and civilian leaders in the camps had seriously disrupted humanitarian operations. UNHCR field workers reported that the situation was particularly dangerous in camps around Goma, Zaire.

In some camps, the former authorities had virtually taken control of food and relief distribution in order to consolidate their power and to manipulate refugees, according to the UNHCR. Relief workers had been threatened repeatedly, seriously disrupting humanitarian efforts in the camps. Humanitarian agencies and organizations had tried to change the food distribution system, but with little success.

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The Secretary-General today expressed regret at the death of the United National Party candidate for the Sri Lankan Presidency, Gamini Dissanayake. Mr. Dissanayake and at least 56 other people were killed by a bomb in Colombo yesterday. In condemning all such terrorist acts, the Secretary-General expressed hope for an early resumption of the peace process in Sri Lanka.

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A seven-member Security Council mission today left New York for Somalia, according to a United Nations spokesman. The mission is scheduled to arrive in Mogadishu on Wednesday, and is expected to spend two days in the country.

Following consultations of the Council on Friday, Council President Sir David Hannay (United Kingdom) announced that the mission would be composed of the following members: China (Wang Xuexian), France (Hervé Ladsous), New Zealand (Colin Keating), Nigeria (Isaac E. Ayewah), Pakistan (Kamran Niaz), the Russian Federation (Yuriy Fedotov) and the United States (Karl F. Inderfurth). Mr. Keating is Chairman of the mission.

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Negotiators from more than 150 countries today began informal talks aimed at reaching a consensus on the goals of the 1995 World Summit for Social Development. The Summit, to be held in Copenhagen next March, will be the first major United Nations conference devoted solely to social development, particularly the increasingly globalized problems of poverty, unemployment and social disintegration. It is seen as the centrepiece of an ongoing cycle of high-level United Nations meetings on development in the 1990s.

A major focus of the week-long talks, which are being held during meetings of the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural), will be a revision of the Summit's draft programme of action. The main task will be to reduce the draft to a more manageable length -- the current working paper is 54 pages long -- and to identify priorities among the wide range of issues proposed for inclusion.

Negotiators made major headway last month on the draft declaration, outlining nine broad commitments for ensuring the success of social

development. The resulting document -- the "Chairman's progress report on elements for the Draft Declaration" -- will be used as the basis for negotiations on a final draft.

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Special Representative Yasushi Akashi met with the Bosnian Serb leadership in Pale over the weekend, and received commitments regarding access for United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) fuel convoys to Gorazde, Zepa and Srebrenica. However, a spokesman for the Organization said those commitments did not appear to have been honoured, as only one convoy had reached Gorazde and Zepa today. Meanwhile, there were problems with the security of the land link into Sarajevo.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) today reported that 19 humanitarian flights had landed in the Bosnian capital, and that 20 were planned for today. There were no problems with convoy access, allowing aid stockpiles to be replenished.

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The Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization) has recommended that the General Assembly condemn the militant actions of the self-proclaimed authorities in Serbian-controlled territories of Croatia. In a draft resolution approved on Friday, the Committee also recommended that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) be requested to immediately cease any military and logistical support to those authorities. The draft was approved by a recorded vote of 111 in favour to none against, with 20 abstentions.

The draft resolution would have the Assembly conclude that the Federal Republic's activities aimed at integrating the occupied territories into its administrative, military, and communication systems were illegal, null and void, and must cease immediately. It would also have the Assembly call on all parties, particularly the Federal Republic, to comply fully with relevant Security Council resolutions and to respect Croatia's territorial integrity.

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Yonsei University Central Library in the Republic of Korea has become a United Nations depository library, one of 338 libraries in 137 countries that bring United Nations documents and publications to users around the world. The University has an enrolment of 30,000 students and 1,900 faculty members.

Since 1946, the Dag Hammarskjöld Library at Headquarters in New York, which is part of the Department of Public Information (DPI), has arranged for the distribution of United Nations documents and publications to users around the world through its depository library system. At present, 49 depository libraries in Africa, 89 in Asia and the Pacific, 28 in Eastern Europe, 77 in Western Europe, 43 in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 52 in North America receive those materials, on the understanding that they will be maintained in good order and be available to the public free of charge.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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25 October 1994

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ General Assembly endorses OAU call for regional conference on Burundi refugees; urges parties there to continue to work for peace, security and democracy.

+ Secretary-General leaves London for Paris after meetings with British Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary.

+ UNPROFOR Commander meets with Bosnian President after Government troops fire on French peace-keepers clearing Mount Igman demilitarized zone; United Nations and NATO hold high-level talks at Headquarters.

+ United Nations estimates Rwandese refugee total at more than two million; number of internally displaced persons falls slightly to 1.8 million.

+ Basic features of effective system of accountability and responsibility to be established in United Nations by January, Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management says.

+ Expanding access to International Court of Justice could facilitate settlement of disputes between States, Court President tells Legal Committee.

+ States urge Disarmament and International Security Committee to give greater attention to destabilizing effects of illegal transfers of conventional weapons.

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The General Assembly today endorsed the Organization of African Unity (OAU) call for a regional conference for assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in the Great Lakes region of Burundi. In a resolution adopted without a vote, it also invited the competent bodies of the United Nations system to take part in organizing the conference.

The Assembly encouraged the new coalition Government of Burundi to continue to fight against warmongers and to disarm the militias and other extremist groups. It called on the parties concerned in the process of national reconciliation to continue efforts to re-establish peace, security

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and democracy. It also encouraged the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the OAU to continue their efforts to normalize the precarious situation in Burundi.

The Assembly also requested Member States, United Nations bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide assistance for the reconstruction and revitalization of Burundi's economy. It also requested financial and technical assistance to strengthen the country's judicial system, to enable the authorities to bring to justice those resonsible for the attempted coup in October and for subsequent ethnic massacres.

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On the second day of his visit to London, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met this afternoon with Prime Minister John Major. Among the topics they discussed were relations between the United Kingdom and the United Nations and matters pertaining to the Security Council, including developments in Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Somalia. He also had meetings with Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd and the Chairman of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Sir Michael Marshall.

The Secretary-General later left London for an official visit to Paris. He is scheduled to have meetings with President Mitterand, Prime Minister Balladur and other senior Government officials, as well as with United Nations representatives.

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French United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) troops helping to clear the Mount Igman demilitarized zone around Sarajevo were fired on yesterday by Bosnian Government troops using rocket-propelled grenades, small arms and two command-detonated mines. The peace-keepers, who returned fire, sustained no casualties, according to a United Nations spokesman.

The UNPROFOR Commander in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lieutenant-General Michael Rose, later met with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic to impress upon him the seriousness of the incident and the need to comply with the demilitarization agreement, the spokesman said. They agreed on joint measures for clearing the zone of Government troops.

Meanwhile, talks are underway in New York between senior United Nations and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) officials. The United Nations was represented by the Force Commander of UNPROFOR, General Bertrand de Lapresle, and the Under-Secretaries-General for Peace-keeping Operations and Political Affairs, Kofi Annan and Marrack Goulding.

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There are currently just over two million refugees from Rwanda in neighbouring countries, including 270,000 in Burundi, 546,000 in Tanzania, and more than 1.2 million in Zaire, according to the United Nations High

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Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) has put the number of internally displaced persons at around 1.8 million, down from 1.96 million in late September.

Meanwhile, the UNHCR has confirmed that 50 Rwandese refugees -- mostly Hutus -- have been killed by unknown assailants at Gittua in northern Burundi. They were among 2,000 refugees waiting to be transferred to a new site to be identified by the UNHCR and local authorities.

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The basic features of a transparent and effective system of accountability and responsibility will be established in the United Nations by 1 January 1995, according to Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management Joseph Connor. Presenting the Secretary-General's report on the subject to the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) yesterday, he said the Secretariat would have initiated such a system even if the Assembly had not mandated it in 1993.

The system will include the establishment of clear responsibility for programme delivery and a mechanism to ensure that programme managers are accountable for effectively managing human and financial resources, Mr. Connor noted. Performance evaluation for all officials and effective training in financial and management responsibilities will also be included.

"The aim is for a lean and flexible Organization. We want to achieve more with less and concentrate on programme implementation rather than on preparing reports", the Assistant Secretary-General for Conference Services and Support Systems, Benon Sevan, told the Committee. The system will include measures to make the Organization's legislative mandates clearer, he added.

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Access to the International Court of Justice is an important consideration in settling disputes between States by legal means, the President of the Court, Mohammed Bedjaoui, said yesterday. He made that comment to the Sixth Committee (Legal) as it began its consideration of the report of the International Law Commission. Far-reaching developments in international relations called for changes in the United Nations, and thought must be given to the role of the Court in that process, he continued. Some threats to peace fell outside State control and involved international organizations; it would thus be beneficial to expand their access to the Court.

Mr. Bedjaoui noted that certain innovations such as the access of the Secretary-General to the Court were under consideration. Granting such authorization would give the Secretary-General increased flexibility and help him in resolving certain political situations.

International Law Commission Chairman Vladlen Vereshchetin said the draft statute for an International Criminal Court would enhance the suppression and

prosecution of the most serious crimes. It would also complement national criminal justice systems. The Court would have jurisdiction over crimes under international law, such as genocide, crimes against humanity and crimes referred to in certain treaties. The draft statute included provisions to allay the fears of States that the Court might displace national jurisdiction or interfere with existing arrangements for international cooperation and judicial assistance.

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The First Committee (Disarmament and International Security) yesterday heard calls for greater attention to be given to the destabilizing effects of large caches or illegal transfers of conventional armaments. Zambia said the various hot-beds of conflict were being sustained by the use of conventional armaments. Africa had the lion's share of those conflicts, which were very costly and retarded economic development. Malta said there were many sources of instability in the Mediterranean region, citing dangerous levels of armaments and severe economic imbalances. The flow of arms, in terms of quantity as well as destructive potential, into the region was daunting.

The representative of Afghanistan expressed regret that Member States had not yet fully recognized the destructive impact that the availability of illegal arms could have. The most inhumane type of warfare had been tested in his country, including chemical and biological weapons. Fourteen years of war had left more than 1.5 million people dead and more than 2 million disabled, he said. The ugliest phenomenon was the existence of 10 million anti-personnel land-mines in the country. Much would be gained from any international measure adopted to restrict the development and use of anti-personnel weapons.

Thailand pointed out that conventional arms were still the main cause of human suffering. The Register of Conventional Arms should be developed into a universal and comprehensive mechanism, which would cover all types and categories of arms, stockpiles, indigenous production and weapons undergoing research and development.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1759
26 October 1994

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ General Assembly, considering need to end United States embargo against Cuba, calls on all States to refrain from passing laws impacting sovereignty of other States; resolution adopted by 101 votes in favour to two against, with 48 abstentions.

+ Multinational Force reports major progress in re-establishing democracy in Haiti, citing President Aristide's call for reconciliation; notes economic gains since lifting of sanctions.

+ President of France awards Secretary-General Grand Cross of French Legion of Honour in recognition of his achievements in fields of peace, development and international diplomacy.

+ Secretary-General congratulates Jordan and Israel on signing of peace treaty; hopes historic event will lead to fresh progress towards comprehensive Middle East peace.

+ United Nations prepares to observe Mozambique elections beginning tomorrow; WFP says shortage of food aid threatens resettlement of refugees there.

+ Establishment of international criminal court would reinforce respect for human rights and international peace and security, Legal Comittee is told.

+ Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information says DPI is pursuing joint ventures to inform more people more effectively about United Nations.

+ FAO coordinates $18.4 million agricultural rehabilitation programme to help Rwandan farmers plant food crops.

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The General Assembly today reiterated its call to all States to refrain from promulgating and applying laws and measures whose extraterritorial effects impacted the sovereignty of other States. It adopted a resolution to that effect by a vote of 101 in favour to two against (Israel and United States), with 48 abstentions, during its consideration of the necessity of

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For information media—not an official record

ending the United States embargo against Cuba. The Assembly also urged States that applied such laws and measures to repeal or invalidate them as soon as possible.

Introducing the resolution, Cuba said that despite requests by the General Assembly and the international community, the United States Government had moved to strengthen the blockade against it. The blockade, which had cost Cuba $970 million last year, flagrantly violated the fundamental rights of the Cuban people and the country's independence, sovereignty and right to self-determination.

The United States representative, speaking in explanation of position, said his country sought to promote a peaceful transition to democracy in Cuba through the careful application of sanctions directed at the Cuban regime. The United States had the sovereign right to determine its bilateral relationships, including its trading partners.

Many speakers said the United States embargo against Cuba violated basic tenets of the United Nations Charter, such as national sovereignty, and ran counter to principles of international law, including freedom of trade and navigation. They also called on the two countries to enter into a dialogue to resolve the matter.

* * *

Substantial progress has been made in re-establishing democracy in Haiti, according to the latest report of the Multinational Force. It said the return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the reconvening of the Haitian Parliament, and the President's call for reconciliation had brought the climate in the country closer to normal. Meanwhile, the lifting of economic sanctions and the resumption of commercial flights had benefitted the Haitian economy and general population. The report, covering the period 9 to 23 October, was transmitted to the Security Council by the Permanent Representative of the United States in a letter dated 24 October.

The report said Haiti had reached a level of security and stability that compared favourably to many other places in the world. The last two weeks had been relatively quiet, and Multinational Force contingents had been able to defuse tense situations on a number of occasions. As of 20 October, the Force had a strength of 16,750 troops, down from a high of 21,000. In addition, there were just over 600 police monitors from 11 countries in Haiti.

The Force Armée d'Haiti -- military and police -- had almost ceased to exist as an organization and posed no threat to the Multinational Force, the report continued. The police were ineffective and the military were in disarray. However, dissident elements, much like attachés, could still be a problem. The Government had agreed to review a proposal for the restructuring of a scaled-down army, while efforts were underway to improve police performance and professionalize the force.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali was today awarded France's highest honour, the Grand Cross of the French Legion of Honour, by President François Mitterand in recognition of his achievements in the fields of peace, development and international diplomacy. The Secretary-General and Mrs. Boutros-Ghali then attended a private luncheon given by President and Mrs. Mitterand at the Elysee Palace.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali had meetings this morning with the Secretary-General of the French Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations, Philippe Louet, and the President of United Nations Association of France, Mario Bettati. He was due to meet this afternoon with Special Representative Edouard Brunner to discuss preparations for his forthcoming visit to Georgia and to review the status of negotiations on a settlement of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict. A meeting with French Defense Minister Françcois Leotard was also scheduled.

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The Secretary-General today extended his congratulations to King Hussein of Jordan and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel on the signing of a peace treaty between their two countries. He regretted that he had been unable to attend the signing ceremony in person, but had sent a high-level delegation led by the Special Coordinatior in the occupied territories, Terje Roed Larsen.

He expressed hope that today's historic event would be followed by full implementation of the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles, and by new progress in the Israeli-Lebanese and Israeli-Syrian negotiations, leading to a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

* * *

National elections will begin in Mozambique tomorrow, and a total of 2,200 observers have been deployed around the country to monitor the voting, a United Nations spokesman said today. He noted that the official results were not expected to be released for three weeks, but expressed hope that Special Representative Aldo Ajello would soon be able to make a statement attesting to the freedom and fairness of the elections.

Meanwhile, the World Food Programme (WFP) said it faced a severe shortage of food aid for Mozambique. As a result, it warned, the resettlement of hundreds of thousands of refugees who had returned from neighbouring countries could be endangered.

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The establishment of an international criminal court would reinforce respect for human rights and international peace and security, the Sixth Comittee (Legal) heard yesterday as it continued its consideration of the International Law Commission's report. Germany, on behalf of the European

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Union, said work on setting up the court must proceed quickly, citing the spread of violence and hatred throughout the world and the systematic violation of fundamental rights.

Australia told the Committee that the establishment of ad hoc war crimes tribunals had demonstrated the pressing need for a permanent international criminal court. It must be given a clear place within the United Nations system to ensure its universality, authority and effectiveness. Austria said the court should be set up on the basis of an international convention. It should not have jurisdiction over national law but should fill the gap left open by domestic law enforcement.

The United States said there would be a compelling reason for setting up a permanent court when the Security Council decided that giving it jurisdiction in particular cases would promote peace and security. However, the need for a permanent mechanism was less clear in other situations. It was important to ensure that those guilty of crimes were effectively prosecuted and to decide whether a court would assist or impede national efforts.

* * *

The Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information, Samir Sanbar, today said that the Department of Public Information (DPI) had built on and expanded its partnerships in order to inform more people more effectively about the United Nations. He said the Department was seeking a "multiplier impact" for its work through joint ventures with the media, intensified dialogue with academia, and stronger links with non-governmental organizations. He made those comments to the Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization) as it began its consideration of questions relating to information.

Meanwhile, the DPI has announced that United Nations materials can now be obtained by almost 30 million users of electronic information around the world. Those materials are being made available through the Gopher -- a system allowing easy access to data on the Internet -- as well as through Agora, APC, Gemnet, Pegasus, Togethernet and other publicly accessible networks.

DPI electronic databases cover the whole spectrum of issues dealt with by the Organization. They carry the full texts of: statements and messages of the Secretary-General; DPI press releases; the Daily Highlights; the United Nations Journal; current Security Council resolutions; reports of the Secretary-General; archives of United Nations resolutions; basic documents; and materials relating to major conferences and peace-keeping operations.

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Rwandan farmers have begun planting food crops with the help of an agricultural rehabilitation programme coordinated by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Production of cereals and beans dropped 60 per cent last year as Rwandans fled the fighting in their country. The $18.4 million

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programme is providing farmers with the most basic agricultural inputs for the current planting season.

The FAO, in collaboration with the other United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations, has also established a network to distribute farm-inputs throughout Rwanda, where 850,000 farming families are in need of seeds, fertilizer and farm tools. It has received pledges and contributions of more than $7 million so far for its efforts in Rwanda, complemented by another $8 million pledged or contributed to other participants in the agricultural programme.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1760
27 October, 1994

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council urges RENAMO to reconsider decision to withdraw from Mozambican elections; Secretary-General says parties must fully honour election commitments, noting international community's investment in democratic process.

+ Security Council extends UNAVEM II mandate until 8 December and restores Mission's strength to previous level; urges Angolan parties to immediately conclude peace agreement and establish effective cease-fire.

+ Chairman of Security Council mission to Somalia says factions must cooperate in phased and orderly withdrawal of UNOSOM II; continued support for country after March 1995 depends on renunciation of violence and genuine reconciliation effort.

+ Secretary-General concludes stay in France and begins first official visit to Romania; addresses joint session of Romanian Parliament.

+ UNPROFOR reports heavy fighting in Bihac area after major Bosnian Government offensive; says Bosnian Serbs might launch counter-attack.

+ Secretary-General's Special Adviser for Public Policy appeals to all States to establish national committees on United Nations fiftieth anniversary as soon as possible.

+ Human Rights Committee discusses draft general comment on impact of reservations on International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

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The Security Council today appealed to the President of the Mozambique National Resistence Movement (RENAMO), Afonso Dhlakama, to reconsider his decision to withdraw from the current elections. The RENAMO President took that action after alleging that there

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For information media—not an official record

were certain irregularities in the election process. In a message from its President, Sir David Hannay (United Kingdom), to Mr. Dhlakama, the Council noted that appropriate procedures were in place through the National Elections Commission whereby any concern RENAMO might have could be addressed.

The Council recalled that it had expressed satisfaction at the progress made by the parties towards implementation of the General Peace Agreement in a statement on 21 October. It had also expressed support for the elections, which held out the prospect of lasting peace, stability and democracy for the Mozambican people. The Council urged RENAMO not to put that opportunity in peril.

In a related development, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali stressed that the elections must go ahead as planned and that the parties must fully honour their commitments in that regard. He said he was looking forward to the satisfactory conclusion of the elections, in which the United Nations and the international community had invested so much.

Meanwhile, Special Representative Aldo Ajello was engaged in an intensive effort to resolve the situation, and was in contact with Mr. Dklakama. United Nations monitors reported large turnouts and no major irregularities at polling stations. RENAMO monitors were present at many stations, although some were said to have withdrawn later.

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The Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) until 8 December. Saying it was encouraged by the substantial progress made recently at the Lusaka peace talks, the Council urged the Angolan parties to immediately conclude an agreement and to establish an effective cease-fire. It took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 852 (1994).

In order to consolidate the implementation of the peace agreement in its initial and most critical stages, the Council restored UNAVEM II's strength to its previous level of 350 military observers and 126 police observers, with an appropriate support staff. Deployment of the additional personnel would take place when the Secretary-General reported that the parties had initialled a peace agreement and that a cease-fire was in place. The Council reaffirmed its readiness to promptly consider any recommendation by the Secretary-General for an expanded United Nations presence in Angola based on his assessment of the circumstances.

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The Council deplored the continuation of hostilities throughout Angola and reiterated its demand that both parties immediately cease all military operations. It also deplored the deterioration of the humanitarian situation there, and demanded

that the parties ensure the security of relief deliveries and the safety of humanitarian personnel.

* * *

The Chairman of the seven-member Security Council mission to Somalia, Colin Keating, today said that continuation of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) beyond 31 March 1995 could not be justified because of the political impasse in the country. Speaking at a press conference in Mogadishu, he stressed that responsibility for the lack of political progress and the inadequate security situation rested squarely on the shoulders of the faction leaders. The Council had sent the mission to Somalia in order to send a clear message to them -- that the international community had said "enough".

The mission had spoken at length with Mr. Ali Mahdi Mohamed and General Mohamed Farah Aideed, and with their respective faction leaders, and had expressed disappointment at their failure to achieve reconciliation, Mr. Keating said. The resulting lack of civil authority and governmental structure had severely hampered United Nations efforts to aid Somalia. The Security Council now expected that the phased and orderly withdrawal of UNOSOM II personnel would receive the cooperation of the factions.

The Council would soon have to decide how best to continue its assistance to Somalia after next March, he continued. It was not anxious to abandon the Somali people. It expected the factions to abandon violence as the means of settling their differences. They must also stick to the agenda agreed to at Addis Ababa and Nairobi, by convening a genuinely inclusively national reconciliation conference which would lead to an interim government. Only then would the international community be willing to give Somalia the support for reconstruction and development it so desperately needed.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali this morning had a working breakfast in Paris with Prime Minister Edouard Balladur, during which he expressed gratitude for French contributions to

peace-keeping operations all over the world. They discussed relations between France and the United Nations, and matters relating to Africa and the former Yugoslavia.

The Secretary-General later left France for his first official visit to Romania. On his arrival in Bucharest, he said he aimed to strengthen relations between the United Nations and Romania, a founder Member of the Organization. Following a meeting with the Chairman of the Chairman of Deputies, Adrian Nastase, he addressed a joint session of the Romanian Parliament.

* * *

The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) today reported heavy fighting in the Bihac area after a major Bosnian Government offensive. The Government's Fifth Army Corps advanced some 10 kilometres, taking 100 to 150 square kilometres of territory in the process. UNPROFOR described the situation as very fluid, and noted that the Bosnian Serbs might launch a counter-attack.

Meanwhile, there was heavy firing into and out of Sarajevo. Six explosions were reported in the city. One occurred in a playground, injuring six children. Fragments indicated that the explosion had been caused by a 120mm mortar, but there was no indication as to the source of the firing.

Yesterday, a tank belonging to the Danish UNPROFOR contingent was hit by fire from a Bosnian Serb tank. The Danish peace-keepers returned fire and did not sustain any casualties.

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The Secretary-General's Special Adviser for Public Policy, Gillian Martin Sorensen, today appealed to all States to establish committees as soon as possible to prepare for the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. She told the Preparatory Committee for the occasion that while the number of national committees was continuing to grow, more than 80 States still had none. She added that the Preparatory Committee's secretariat was ready and willing to work with them.

The Special Adviser noted that there was considerable public interest in educational programmes on the United Nations. The secretariat would be working through the United Nations

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Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and national education ministries to encourage all schools to teach about the Organization in 1995.

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The Human Rights Committee has been discussing a draft general comment addressing issues raised by a growing tendency to enter reservations to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. General comments are designed to provide guidance to States parties on adherence to the spirit and letter of the Covenant.

According to the draft before the Committee in Geneva, the number, content and scope of reservations might undermine the full implementation of the Covenant; they also tend to weaken the obligations of States parties. Reservations might serve a useful function only when they enable individual States to temporarily adapt the general provisions of the Covenant to their specific situation. Recalling that the number of reservations attached to human rights treaties is significantly higher than the number associated with other types of multilateral treaties, the draft indicates that 46 States parties have entered a total of 150 reservations to the Covenant.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1761
28 October 1994

F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

+ Mozambicans continue to vote in large numbers after RENAMO decides to participate fully in national elections; voting period extended to Saturday.

+ Angolan Government and UNITA ready to initial peace agreement in Lusaka by end of month.

+ Secretary-General, in Bucharest, has meetings with Romanian President and Prime Minister; expresses gratitude for Romania's contribution to work of United Nations.

+ General Assembly President, in address to First Committee, sees progress towards disarmament, despite heavy toll of lives taken by conventional weapons.

+ As General Assembly discusses Secretary-General's report on work of Organization, speakers stress need to give peace and development efforts equal priority.

+ Central America is committed to strengthening political institutions by peaceful and democratic means, Secretary-General says; international community should strengthen support for region.

+ United Nations Human Rights Mission in Guatemala, meeting with URNG leaders in Mexico, says it can soon begin to carry out its mandate.

+ DPI should redress imbalances in media coverage of peace-keeping operations, India tells Fourth Committee; Benin says Daily Highlights and briefings summaries should be available in French.

+ China says Taiwan question is purely internal affair and should not have been raised by any State in General Assembly general debate.

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The President of the Mozambique National Resistance Movement (RENAMO), Afonso Dhlakama, has reversed his decision to withdraw from the country's elections, and voting proceeded very successfully today, according to a United Nations spokesman. He noted that the Presidents of South Africa and Zimbabwe

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For information media—not an official record

had assisted in resolving the situation. The voting period has been extended by one day to Saturday to allow a high turnout and the resolution of difficulties before the polls close. More than half of the registered electorate voted yesterday.

Meanwhile, the Supervision and Monitoring Commission (CSC) has noted with concern the list of alleged irregularities submitted by RENAMO and certain other opposition parties on Wednesday. It undertook to make every effort to ensure that those complaints were fully investigated, and, where possible, resolved before the completion of voting.

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The elements are in place for the initialling of an Angolan peace agreement in Lusaka by the end of the month, a United Nations spokesman announced today. At a meeting with Special Representative Alioune Blondin Beye in Huambo yesterday, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) indicated that it was ready to initial an agreement on Monday; a Government delegation has already been cleared to do so.

The Security Council yesterday extended the mandate of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) until 8 December, and restored the Mission's strength to its previous level in order to consolidate the implementation of the peace agreement in its initial and most critical stages. It said the additional personnel would be deployed when the parties had initialled a peace agreement and an effective cease-fire was in place.

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On the second day of his official visit to Romania, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met this afternoon with President Ion Iliescu. They discussed areas of crisis, particularly the former Yugoslavia, and the President stressed that the United Nations had an essential role to play in the restructuring of international relations. He also called for international efforts to promote economic growth through a partnership for development, noting the widening gap between rich and poor countries. The Secretary-General said the United Nations needed Romania's continued support. He was expected to meet later with Prime Minister Nicolae Vacaroiu.

This morning, the Secretary-General met with Foreign Minister Teodor Melescanu, and expressed gratitude for Romania's contribution to the work of the Organization. They reviewed the international situation, paying particular attention to the effect on Romania of the economic embargo against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

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The world is now in a position to reach the goal of complete disarmament through bilateral and multilateral agreements untrammelled by cold war considerations, General Assembly President Amara Essy (Côte d'Ivoire) said today. However, he added that forces repressed during the cold war had been

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unleashed across the planet, and that hundreds of thousands of people had been killed by conventional weaponry. The twin goals of disarmament and development were therefore as crucial now as when the Charter was drawn up. He made those comments to the First Committee (Disarmament and International Security) as it observed Disarmament Week, which began on United Nations day, 24 October.

Next year's conference on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) presented the Committee with an opportunity to safeguard one of the pillars of international peace and security, he continued. At the same time, the proliferation of conventional weapons had serious repercussions for peace and security. The United Nations Register of Conventional Arms was one way to promote the confidence needed to curb proliferation.

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The United Nations must give equal priority and treatment to peace and development, India's Minister of State for External Affairs said yesterday. It needed to find a collective middle way consistent with the need for rapid economic development and sustained peace, which reflected individual traditions, he told the General Assembly as it discussed the Secretary-General's report on the work of the Organization.

The representative of Sri Lanka said the report aimed to shift the focus away from post-cold-war political priorities to development concerns. The United Nations was of great relevance to smaller developing countries, which were vulnerable and relied heavily on it to preserve their sovereignty and to protect them from external intervention.

Algeria's representative said the United Nations should be the focal point of international development efforts. The Organization's short-comings were due to the increasing number and complexity of demands made on it. He added that restructuring, including reform of the Security Council, had thus entered a crucial stage.

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Central America has demonstrated its interest in strengthening political institutions by peaceful and democratic means, according to the Secretary-General. In a report to the General Assembly issued today, he noted that five countries in the region had held elections this year, in collaboration with the United Nations and the international community.

In El Salvador, the commitments made by the parties in the 1992 Peace Accords were being successfully implemented, he said, expressing hope that the country's institutions would soon take control of their political destiny. Meanwhile, international dialogue with Nicaraguan institutions was being strengthened. An encouraging peace process was underway in Guatemala; Several agreements had been signed and the General Assembly had established the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA). In his report, the Secretary-General urged the international community to

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strengthen its support for Central America. He stressed his readiness to continue to play an active role in promoting peace, freedom, democracy and development there.

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The Chief of the advance technical team of the United Nations Human Rights Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA), Fernando Castañón, met in Mexico on Wednesday with the leaders of the Unidad Revolucionaría Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG). The meeting was also attended by the Director of the special United Nations unit for the peace process in Guatemala, Gilberto Schlitter.

Among the matters discussed were procedures for verifying implementation of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights with regard to commitments made by the URNG; measures taken by the URNG to end the suffering of the civilian population; and the security of MINUGUA observers in the context of the internal armed conflict. Mr. Castañón said that as a result of the support received so far, the Mission could soon be officially installed and begin to carry out its mandate.

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The Department of Public Information (DPI) should provide precise information on the complexities of peace-keeping operations to counter the unbalanced view taken by the dominant media, the representative of India said today. The international media were dominated by giants with little interest economic and social development, he continued, and the Department should redress that situation. He made those comments to the Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization), as it continued its consideration of questions relating to information.

The representative of Benin said summaries of the DPI's daily briefings and its Daily Highlights should be available in both English and French, the two working languages of the United Nations. The DPI should also review the linguistic imbalance in its radio and television services, and create a televised magazine with extracts from statements made by delegations speaking in French.

Speakers welcomed the positive changes made in the DPI over the past year, while addressing areas in need of additional emphasis. The representatives of Burundi and Sri Lanka said the Department should be provided with more resources, while the representative of Egypt called for the reallocation of resources from anti-apartheid activities to address such regional issues as the New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. The representative of South Africa paid tribute to the role played by the DPI in bringing about the recent transformation in his country.

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There is only one China -- the People's Republic of China -- and Taiwan is an inalienable part of it, according to the Chinese Permanent Representative to the United Nations. In a General Assembly document issued today, he said some States had "peddled the so-called question of Taiwan's 'representation' in the United Nations" in the Assembly's recent general debate, in disregard of the Charter and international law. They had also referred to "two Chinas" and "one country, two seats". He expressed indignation at those acts, which infringed upon China's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The question of Taiwan was purely an internal affair and no country had the right to interfere in it, the Chinese Representative stressed. He accused the Taiwan authorities of trying to win over some States by "dollar diplomacy". Those States should adhere to the Assembly's 1971 resolution which stated that the representatives of the People's Republic were the only lawful representatives of China to the United Nations.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1762
31 October 1994

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council extends UNOSOM II mandate until Friday; to consider report of recent mission to Somalia before deciding on Operation's future.

+ United Nations and NATO announce understanding on use of airpower in Bosnia and Herzegovina; dual-key arrangements remain in effect to ensure joint decisions on targeting and execution of air strikes.

+ Secretary-General begins official visit to Georgia, having concluded visit to Azerbaijan.

+ Mozambican national elections conclude with 90 percent turnout; no major incidents reported during extended voting period.

+ Iraq admits to having explored feasibility of using laser separation to produce enriched uranium between 1981 and 1987, IAEA says.

+ Success of World Summit for Social Development will require global partnership between developed and developing countries, speakers tell Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee.

+ Special Political and Decolonization Committee approves drafts on Western Sahara, American Samoa and other Non-Self-Governing Territories.

+ Members of Human Rights Committee express concern about extensive use of death penalty and limitations on certain freedoms in Libya.

+ Proposed international criminal court should complement national criminal justice systems, Legal Committee is told.

* * *

The Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) for an interim period expiring on Friday, 4 November. It said it would consider the report of its recent seven-member mission to Somalia before completing its review of the Operation's mandate and deciding on its future. The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 953 (1994).

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For information media—not an official record

In a report dated 14 October, the Secretary-General recommended that UNOSOM II's mandate be extended to 31 March 1995 to give Somali leaders time to consolidate any progress towards reconciliation. He noted that the Council had previously decided that the Operation should end by that date and said that the withdrawal of all personnel might take as long as 120 days and require extensive support from Member States. He added that the United Nations could continue to play a role in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Somalia if Somali leaders could create favourable security conditions.

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After meetings in New York last week, the United Nations and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) have reached a series of understandings on the use of airpower in Bosnia and Herzegovina, according to a joint statement issued by the two organizations yesterday. Based on those understandings, NATO air strikes will be conducted on a timely basis. While general warning may be given to an offending party, tactical warning of impending air strikes, in principle, will not. Under normal circumstances, several targets -- three or four where possible -- will be authorized for each strike, which will be carried out in close coordination with the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR).

"Dual-key" arrangements remain in effect to ensure that decisions on targeting and execution will be taken jointly by United Nations and NATO military commanders, the statement said. The principles of proportionality in response to a violation will continue to be respected, as will the need to avoid unacceptable casualties.

The Secretaries-General of the United Nations and NATO confirmed once again the excellent cooperation between the two organizations in the implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions. They reaffirmed their conviction that the prospect of the effective use of airpower, under the authority of the Security Council and in accordance with the relevant North Atlantic Council decisions, should deter attacks against UNPROFOR and violations of those resolutions.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today arrived in Georgia, having concluded an official visit to Azerbaijan. On arrival in Tbilisi, he was welcomed by President Eduard Shevardnadze, Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia, Foreign Minister Alexander Chikvaidze, and his Special Representative for Georgia, Edouard Brunner. He was expected to have a tête-à-tête with the President this afternoon.

Yesterday in Azerbaijan, he had a two-hour meeting with President Heidar Aliyev, who stated that his country was cooperating closely with the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) to achieve a peaceful settlement of the conflict with Armenia. The Secretary-General expressed support for peace-making efforts by the CSCE Minsk Group and mediation efforts by the Russian Federation. He said that the

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United Nations was ready to help coordinate those initiatives, and that it would expand its humanitarian presence in Azerbaijan through its agencies and programmes.

Earlier yesterday, Mr. Boutros-Ghali had a meeting with the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan, Hassan Hassanov. They discussed the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict and the importance of implementing Security Council resolutions 822 and 853 (1993), relating to the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and to the immediate withdrawal of occupying troops from Azeri territory.

The Secretary-General also visited a refugee centre, where representatives briefed him regarding the plight of one million refugees and displaced persons living in Azerbaijan. He said that he would update the Security Council on the situation and that the Organization would continue to strive for a peaceful solution to the conflict. He later visited the United Nations office in Baku and addressed staff there.

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Some 90 percent of the registered electorate had voted in Mozambique's national elections when the polls closed on Saturday, according to a United Nations spokesman. He said there had been no major incidents during the elections. The voting period had been extended from two to three days to allow for a high turnout and the resolution of difficulties after the Mozambique National Resistance Movement (RENAMO) reversed a decision to withdraw from the elections.

In a Presidential statement on 21 October, the Security Council reiterated its intention to endorse the results of the elections should the United Nations declare them free and fair, and reminded the parties of their obligation to fully abide by the results. It said the parties should be guided by the spirit of reconciliation and the principles of democracy after the elections, thus enabling the international community to continue to support Mozambique.

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Iraq has admitted that, contrary to previous statements, it assigned resources to exploring the feasibility of using laser isotope separation to produce enriched uranium between 1981 and 1987, according to a report by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). That admission followed an IAEA investigation at the Tuwaitha site, and visits to Tarmiya, Baghdad Technical University and the University of Baghdad. The report, covering the Agency's twenty-sixth on-site inspection in Iraq, was transmitted to the Security Council by the Secretary-General in a note dated 22 October.

The report also deals with implementation of the ongoing monitoring and verification plan, particularly regarding the use of machine tools,

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non-nuclear materials and other equipment, and inspections at sites associated with Iraq's former nuclear weapons programme. A total of 16 facilities, installations and sites were visited during the IAEA's latest inspection.

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A global partnership between developed and developing countries and specific commitments on the part of both will be essential to the success of the World Summit for Social Development, speakers told the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural). The World Summit will take place in Denmark next March.

The Summit should make a strong plea for global partnership, Canada said, calling attention to the need to pool resources. India noted that there continued to be an emphasis on reallocating resources rather than providing new ones, and called for specific action in that regard. Tunisia called for particular attention to the problems afflicting Africa.

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The Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization) has approved a total of twelve drafts on Western Sahara, American Samoa and other Non-Self-Governing Territories on its agenda. Also on Friday, the Committee addressed such questions as foreign economic and military activities in those Territories, the role of United Nations specialized agencies, and information provided by administering Powers.

By the terms of a draft resolution on Western Sahara, the General Assembly would restate its support for further efforts of the United Nations in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity (OAU), to organize a referendum on self-determination, in conformity with the settlement plan approved by the Security Council. The Assembly would also reaffirm the agreed goal of holding such a free, fair and impartial referendum without any military or administrative constraints, and would express the hope that direct talks between the two parties would soon resume. That draft was approved without a vote.

The Committee approved another draft resolution by which the Assembly would condemn the activities of foreign economic, financial and other interests that continued to exploit the human and natural resources of the indigenous peoples of colonial and Non-Self-Governing Territories. It would urge that the administering Powers concerned guarantee the inalienable rights of the peoples of those Territories to their natural resources. That draft was approved by 94 votes in favour to 38 against with 5 abstentions (Argentina, Belarus, Kyrgyz Republic, Russian Federation, Senegal).

Acting without a vote, the Assembly approved a draft resolution addressing the specific conditions in the following small Territories: American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin

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Islands. Also without a vote, the Committee approved texts on the situations in New Caledonia, Gibraltar, Pitcairn and Tokelau.

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The extensive use of the death penalty in Libya and limitations on the exercise of a number of freedoms were cited as matters of concern by members of the Human Rights Committee in Geneva on Friday. The Committee thus concluded its examination of Libya's second periodic report on implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The Committee heard Said Hafyana, a member of Libya's General People's Committee of Justice and General Security, respond to questions on such matters as freedom of religion, the treatment of detainees and the right to life. Asked whether heretics were punished with death in Libya, he said that if "heretic" meant a person who practised a religion other than Islam, that was not true. The State punished actions which prevented freedom of belief and religion. According to Islamic law, heretics were Muslims who converted to another religion; they were punished with death. However, no one had ever been executed for heresy in Libya because nobody had converted from Islam.

The Libyan representative indicated that restrictions on the exercise of the freedoms of the press and expression were regulated by law and were meant to safeguard public order and social morality. With regard to the legal protection of the family, under the draft constitution to be submitted to the legislature, husbands no longer had absolute rights of divorce or polygamy.

The draft constitution, which would be applicable once adopted by the General People's Congress, would reinforce the freedoms and safeguards enjoyed by Libyans, Mr. Hafyana went on to say. It did not proclaim specific rights because that was already done in the Great Green Document.

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An international criminal court must complement national criminal justice systems if it is to be universally accepted, the representative of Chile told the Sixth Committee (Legal) on Friday. He said States should be allowed to investigate crimes listed in the draft statute, especially as national courts were increasingly dealing with some crimes over which the court would have jurisdiction. He made those comments as the Committee continued its consideration of the report of the International Law Commission.

Ghana warned that some crimes listed in the draft statute could have political underpinnings, thereby affecting the will of States and compromising their commitment to an international criminal court. India said the perpetrators of international crimes should not be allowed to seek immunity behind the claim that their actions were politically motivated.

Several speakers addressed the issue of the Security Council's power under the draft statute to refer cases to the Court. Sri Lanka said there was a risk that such power could introduce inequalities for States who were not members of the Council, as well as between permanent and non-permanent members.

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